

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are all the claims pending in the application.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to inform the Applicant of the status of the drawings filed October 18, 1999.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Giho (Vol. 72, No. 12, 1998), and claims 2, 3, 5, and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Giho in view of Oshima (USP 5,747,875) and Ahmann et al. (USP 4,037,270). Claim 4 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but the Examiner indicated that the claim would be allowable if rewritten *in extenso*. Applicants cancel claim 1 herein and respectfully traverse the remaining rejections as set forth below.

Claim 4 is rewritten in independent form herein, as suggested by the Examiner. Thus claim 4 is believed to be allowable. Additionally, claims 2, 3, 5, and 6 are rewritten in independent form.

Applicants' claim 2 recites a fixing means being a pawl projectingly provided on the outer case. The Examiner asserts that Oshima discloses this limitation in FIG. 16, but the Applicants disagree for the following reasons. As shown in FIGS. 3 and 4, the pawls 12a and 12b project from the sides of the case, are pushed by the control circuit board into a space in the case during installation of the control circuit board, and return to a projected disposition after the control circuit board is installed to secure the board in place. The use of pawls allow the board to

be replaced more easily than in the prior art. FIG. 16 of Oshima discloses an "L" shaped portion of the case 101, into which a copper base 122 is inserted, but Oshima does not disclose a pawl.

The Examiner further asserts that Oshima discloses the limitations of claim 3. As shown in FIG. 16 of Oshima, conductor pins PI are connected directly to the circuit boards 121c and 121d and are connected to circuit board 131 via through holes TH(E3) and TH(E6), respectively, but the conductor pins PI are not fixed to the outer case, as required by claim 3. Since the applied references do not disclose all of its limitations, claim 3 is not obvious in view of the references.

According to the Examiner, the combination of Giho and Ahmann et al. renders claim 5 obvious, but Applicants submit that this combination of references fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of claim 5. As shown in FIG. 5, Ahmann et al. discloses a circuit board 10 with an integrated circuit chip 48 mounted thereon and pin contacts 38, which make electrical contact between the circuit board and the chip. However, the disclosure of Ahmann et al. is limited to teaching connection of chips to circuit boards, while Applicants' invention claims a connecting means including a lead that electrically connects a power chip circuit board to a control circuit board. Furthermore, neither of the applied references, either alone or in combination, teach the control circuit board being fixed to the outer enclosing case in a state where a tip side of the lead is compressed. Giho does not disclose the aforementioned aspect of the claimed connecting means, and, as noted above, Ahmann et al. do not disclose connecting one circuit board to another.

Contrary to the Examiner's statement regarding claim 6, Giho does not disclose screws attaching the bottom board to the case. Instead, Giho discloses screws attaching the base substrate to the case. Moreover, no disclosure is made in any of the applied references to securing the control circuit board to the case with screws. Thus, the Examiner has offered no prior art to support a claim of obviousness for claim 6.

In view of the foregoing, claims 2-6 are now believed to be in form for allowance, and such action is hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, he is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee, except for the Issue Fee, for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



Cameron W. Beddard
Registration No. 46,545

SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN,
MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037-3213
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

Date: July 3, 2001